

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings in the attached replacement sheets correct informalities noted in the Office Action. The cross-sectional references in Figs. 1(D), 5(A), 6(A), 9(C), 15, 26, and 35(E) have been amended to be denoted by Roman numerals. The Japanese labeling have been deleted from Figs. 32(A)-(B). No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

Non-Compliant Amendment

The Specification has been amended from the original Specification as preliminarily amended. Both a mark-up and clean copy are attached herewith. The abstract is amended herein to correct informalities. The second paragraph of the abstract has been deleted. The subject matter contained therein has been added to the first paragraph. The cross-sectional references in Figs. 5 and 6 have been amended to be denoted by Roman numerals.

Applicants respectfully request that this Response be entered.

Claims

Claims 1-29 were previously pending.

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 3-18, 21-27 and 29 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-2, 19, 20 and 28 stand rejected.

Claims 30 and 31 have been added. No new matter is added.

Claims 1 and 3-31 are currently pending.

Specification

The specification has been amended to correct informalities. A substitute specification (a marked-up copy and a clean copy) is included herein to correct the specification. No new matter has been added.

Drawings

The drawings have been corrected and the specification amended to be consistent with the drawings. The cross-sectional references in the figures have been amended to be denoted by Roman numerals. The Japanese labeling have been deleted from Figs. 32(A)-(B). The designation of the figures has been amended in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Description

The specification has been amended to correct informalities. With regard to the division of the wrapping container along the broken line 15, it is pointed out that Paragraph [0027] states as follows:

When the separation part is formed of perforations, a slit part is preferred to be 0.5-5 mm long and 3 mm wide at the maximum, and an unslit part is preferred to be 0.5-5 mm long. In such a manner, it is possible to guide the slit direction by the wearer not to deviate from the separation part, and is also possible to prevent dirt or the like from penetrating into the wrapping container from the separation part. Moreover, in order for the separation part to be easily slit, it is preferable to bring the separation part into penetration state in the direction of thickness.

Furthermore, Paragraph [0086] states that:

These broken lines have only to show the tearing position and direction to the wearer, and as to the structure, an alternate sequence of slits and non-slits like perforations can be mentioned. The broken lines of such a structure are preferred to have 0.5-5 mm long slit parts, a 3 mm maximum width, and 0.5-3 mm long non-slit parts. Such arrangements can not only guide the direction torn by the wearer not to deviate from the broken lines but can prevent dirt and dust from entering through the broken lines.

Thus, it is clear the specification teaches that the broken line 15 indicates perforations or slits that penetrate in the thickness direction for dividing or separating the sheet into sections.

With regard to the tape 14 and sealed longitudinal end, Paragraph [0178] states:

As shown in FIG. 1(A), the interlabial pad 2 is firstly placed with the opposite side face to body side face 2a. Next, as shown in (B) of the same figure, one side part 11a of the wrapping sheet 11 is folded inside along the longitudinal side edge part of the interlabial pad 2, and further, as shown in (C) of the same figure, the other end part 11b of the wrapping sheet 11 is also folded inside. Thus, as shown in (D) of the same figure an overlapping part 11c of the side part 11a and the side part 11b is formed,

and this overlapping part becomes the pre-unwrapped opening. This overlapping part 11c is sealed with a peelable stop tape 14. And, by temporary tacking the upper and lower edges of the wrapping sheet by means of heat-sealing, ultrasonic-sealing, etc., so as to be unsealed again, the interlabial pad 2 is enclosed so as not to fall out and thus the wrapping body 3 is formed.

It is clear that the tape 4 is peelable and the longitudinal ends on the front is detachably sealed at the upper and lower edges.

Claim Objections

Claims have been amended to obviate the objections. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 19, 20 and 28 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,911 to Fitz. The Examiner states that Fitz discloses all of the features of the claimed invention.

Amended claim 1 recites “a finger insertion portion for each separate section; and at least one mini sheet piece forming at least one finger insertion portion and attached to the wrapping container at respective side edges and open to a finger inserting direction for inserting and passing a finger therethrough.” In contrast, Fitz discloses a handling aid with absorbent material attached thereto. The absorbent material disclosed by Fitz does not form a finger insertion portion, nor is it attached at respective side edges to a wrapping container. Further, a user’s finger cannot pass therethrough. Thus Fitz does not disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Fitz. Claims 19, 20 and 28 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 2 has been cancelled rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments

REPLACEMENT SHEETS